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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT Kaelte-Richter Plant in Berlin

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

[REDACTED]

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1. The Kaelte-Richter Plant on Marschnerstrasse in Berlin 0 17, produced deep freezes (Freezer), barometer charbers (Barokammern), cabinets for testing materials, refrigerating machines, counters (Ladentische), Schopper cabinets (Schopperschränke), and laboratory installations. * Freon 12 and 22 and propane were used as refrigerating agents. ** Freezing temperatures of minus 70 degrees C to minus 75 degrees C were reached with these refrigerating agents. After the plant obtained a bottle of Freon 13 in mid-1950 the temperature could be lowered to minus 100 degrees centigrade. The use of propane was supposed to be suspended on Soviet order because of the danger of explosion. However, the use of propane as a refrigerating agent could not be abandoned at the time because Freon, an article imported from the West, was not available in sufficient quantities. 25X1X

25X1X [REDACTED] the production of refrigerating machines in the Kaelte Richter Plant could be hampered extraordinarily if the Western Freon shipments were completely blocked, because the refrigerating machines would then have to be operated only with the dangerous propane.

2. The Soviets demanded that the refrigerating machines must reach a temperature of at least minus 100 degrees C within an hour. *** As only propane and Freon 12 and 22 were available as refrigerating agents, it was planned to reach the 100 degree mark by the installation of additional compressors. The refrigerating machines served for testing textiles, metals and foods as well as for all kinds of research purposes. A Moscow institute was said to use the machines for vegetable research aimed at promoting the cultivation of the cold regions of the U.S.S.R. The refrigerating machines were allegedly also used for atomic research. The entire production of the plant was shipped to the U.S.S.R. after having been tested and accepted by Soviet engineers.

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3. On [REDACTED] one "VIL Kuehl 'utomat" Plant at 27/29 Segefliegerdamm in Johannisthal (1 53/5 94) was scheduled to start the same production as the Kaelte-Richter Plant. The number of workers and office employees of this plant allegedly amounted to 500.

4. Most of the material for the refrigerating machines is delivered from the Soviet Zone of Germany. In addition to the Freons mentioned, the drawn evaporator tubes all had to be imported from Western Germany.

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25X1A * [REDACTED] Comment. "Ladentische" probably are counters into which a refrigerating device has been installed. "Schopperschraenke" probably means refrigerators built for the Louis Schopper Plant in Leipzig (N 52/E 21). The Louis Schopper Plant is an enterprise of the Pribor SAG. Its production includes material testing machines, machines for grain tests, scientific apparatuses for paper, rubber, insulation material and metal industries.

25X1A ** [REDACTED] Comment. "Freon" is the technical designation for difluorodichlormethane, a nonpoisonous and noncombustible gas, especially suited to serve as a refrigerating agent. Freon is supplied to the Kaelte-Richter Plant by the I.G. Farben Plant in Frankfurt/Lahn-Hoechst.

25X1A *** [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] the Soviets ordered the Kaelte-Richter Plant in the fall of 1950 to produce as fast as possible refrigerating machines which could reach a temperature of minus 200 degrees C. After several tests, the Kaelte Richter Plant allegedly succeeded in reaching the 200 degree mark in [REDACTED]

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